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APRIL 29 2008

Therefore, a copy of the above-noted Petition is filed herewith and prompt attention to this Petition is required, because this Petition will not stay the period for responding to the final Office Action mailed March 21, 2008. MPEP 1002. As discussed in the attached Petition, several serious procedural errors have been made in the final Office Action, which will severely prejudice the Applicants if corrective relief is not promptly granted.

In view of the procedural disadvantages that occur when an amendment is filed more than 2 months after the filing date of a final Office Action (see MPEP 714.13(I)), it is requested that the attached Petition be accorded the filing date of April 11, 2008 for the purpose of docketing it for decision in accordance with MPEP 714.13(V). The Applicant promptly filed the attached Petition and should not be further punished with a delayed decision due to the PTO's failure to timely enter it into their computer system. Furthermore, the Applicant should not be left in limbo concerning whether the Director will grant or deny this Petition, because the Director's ruling is expected to fundamentally affect the most appropriate course of subsequent action.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.8(b)(3), a statement of Ms. Diane L. Stout is also filed herewith to establish that the attached Petition was faxed to the PTO on April 11, 2008. This statement also includes a copy of the sending unit's report confirming transmission of the above-noted Petition.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is hereby respectfully requested to:

1. Accord the filing date of April 11, 2008 to the above-noted, attached Petition,
2. Issue a decision on this Petition in accordance with the expedited procedures mentioned in MPEP 714.13(V), and
3. Grant any other relief the Director deems appropriate in view of the present circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark A. Ussai
Reg. No. 42,195

File No. 016382-9015

Michael Best & Friedrich LLP
100 East Wisconsin Avenue
Suite 3300
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-4108
215.822.9104

USPTO

4/11/2008 4:07:48 PM PAGE 1/001 Fax Server

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Apr 11 2008 4:01PM MICHAEL BEST AND FRIEDRIC 215-822-9140 p.1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
Group Art Unit 3612

In re Patent Application of
Winfried Burmann et al.
Application No. 10/580,282
Confirmation No.: 4389
Filed: May 23, 2006
Examiner: Patel, Kiran B
VEHICLE ROOF STRUCTURE FOR MOTOR
VEHICLE

Chandrasekhar
4/11/08
Date of Receipt

Petition Under 37 CFR 1.181 for Withdrawal of Finality of
the Office Action mailed March 21, 2008 and for other necessary action

PETITION TO BE DECIDED BY DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3610

EXPEDITED PROCESSING REQUESTED
AFTER FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Box A/P
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In the first Office Action dated March 21, 2008, the Examiner finally rejected the application, while introducing several new grounds for rejection in Sections 1-4 of the Office Action.

None of the new grounds for rejection made in Sections 1-4 could possibly have been necessitated by amendments to the claims, because no amendments of the claims have been made since the preliminary amendment, which was filed on May 23, 2006, i.e. before the first Office Action on the merits (mailing date: August 15, 2007).

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